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June 2025





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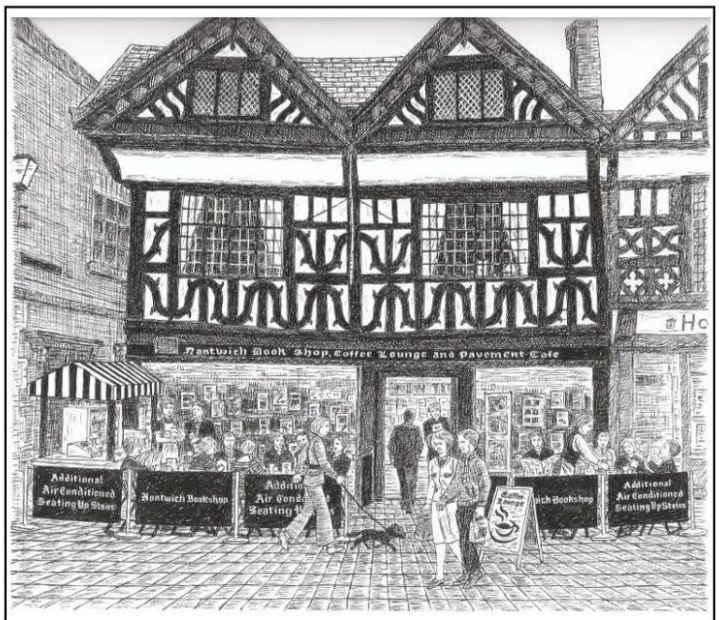
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Front cover: A 360 degree aerial drone photo of Nantwich on Sunday, 18th May 2025, taken by Jonathan White.



From the Rector

The whole school was gathered for morning assembly as we rose to sing the hymn "Christ is made the sure foundation". Just before the final verse, Mr. Percival, the deputy headmaster, called a halt. We expected a ticking off for poor effort, but instead he drew our attention to the remaining words:
"Laud and honour to the Father, laud and honour to the Son, laud and honour to the Spirit, ever Three, and ever One, consubstantial, co-eternal, while unending ages run".

He was concerned that we should understand the significance of "consubstantial". This is the key word used in the creed formulated by the Council of Nicea in 325AD to settle the question of the divinity of Christ. As translated in our liturgy, Jesus Christ is "of one substance" with the Father; what we see in him is what God is, the fullness of God.

Looking back I applaud Mr. Percival for not under-estimating the capacity of five hundred 11-18 year old boys. He left an impression on me. I was 11 at the time, and I could take you to the spot where I was sitting. I've loved the hymn ever since, especially the word "consubstantial". It was always disappointing in the years following to encounter hymn books with the term watered down on the assumption that modern people couldn't understand it. Happily we're back to "consubstantial" at St. Mary's.

It's a translation of the Greek *homoousios*, and later in the 4th century those in the Church opposed to Nicea proposed *homoiousios* instead. Just one iota of difference, but all the difference, for the meaning changes from "of the same substance" to "of similar substance".

One lesson I like to demonstrate in primary school assemblies is that, whereas you can't share a glass of water with another glass without diminishing the quantity, you can share the flame of a candle with another, and the second light, the "light of light" is just as bright as the first light.

"God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God …" is that other, vivid way in which the Nicene Creed expresses the same truth as "consubstantial".

1700 years on we should give thanks to God for the work of his Spirit in leading the Church into truth. It is of God's nature to share that nature. That is who God is, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And by that same giving. we may have life, each morning, and while unending ages run. Rest in peace, Mr. Percival.

Mark Hart

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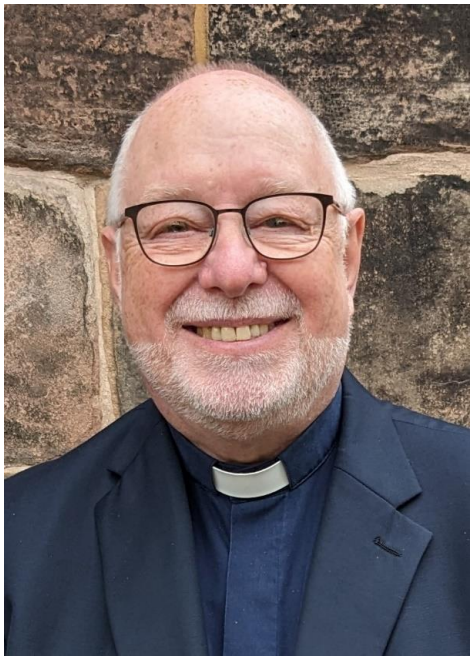
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Drunk and Disorderly



Have you ever been accused of being drunk? It's well-known that alcohol loosens the tongue and reduces inhibitions. So those who've had a few drinks can sometimes be more jolly and exuberant than they might otherwise be.

As I write this, I have my mind on the great celebration of Pentecost - often referred to as the Birthday of the Church - which we read about in Acts 2. The Holy Spirit is poured out by God on the disciples of Jesus, and they begin to speak and act in strange ways. So much so, that the bystanders accuse them of being drunk! And Peter has to point out that "these men are not drunk - for it is only 9 o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken about by the prophet Joel: 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people.'"

So overwhelming was the experience of God's Spirit on that day, that the disciples and other followers of Jesus who were present appeared drunk: drunk on God!

There's a story of a woman attending church one day, and getting so caught up in worship that she raised her hands in the air and spontaneously called out "Alleluia!" A churchwarden quietly sidled up to her and asked what the matter was. "I got religion!" the woman said. At which point the warden scowled disapprovingly and replied: "Well you didn't get it here!"

Sometimes, it seems to me, we so box God in with restraint and respectability that there's no danger at all of others wondering if we might be drunk! We "normalise" God and we "domesticate" him lest he dare to shake us or disturb us or move us beyond ourselves into the realm of divine activity.

The events of that Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 remind us that God is not to be so contained. Nor is his divine activity always respectable. At times, his people have been mistaken for being drunk! God continues "to pour out his Spirit upon all people" … and that includes you and me, if we will let him in!

Rev. Brian Statham

Church News

Annual Meetings 2025

The annual meetings were held on Wednesday, 7th May.

At the **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** the following were elected to be Churchwardens for the year 2025-26:

Phil Boxhall, Paul O'Brien.

At the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** the following were elected:

to the Parochial Church Council for three years:
Debby Hallam, Jane Knight, Judith Pearson
to the Parochial Church Council for one year:
Geoffrey Pearson.

At the **PCC Meeting** immediately after the **APCM**, the following were appointed or elected:

Vice-Chairman: Bryan Coghlan; *Treasurer:* Steve Lockett;
PCC Secretary: Beth Roberts; *Electoral Roll Officer:* Gail Johnson;
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Belinda Coghlan.

Standing Committee: Phil Boxhall, Bryan Coghlan, Mark Hart, Steve Lockett, Paul O'Brien, Beth Roberts.

Sidespersons: Pauline Beeby, Jen Burrows, Jill Crawford, Lorna Dale, Quentin Duerden, Rachel Duerden, Paul Everson, Pamela Greatorex, Mike Harries, Pam Hulse, Margaret Kavanagh, Adam Kirkpatrick (elected 20/5/25), Jane Knight, Dave Leeson, Andy Lewis, Sharon Morgan, Ray Morris, Tom Protheroe, Gail Ramsey, Beth Roberts, Carole Tilt, Jane Whalley.

PCC (co-opted for one year): Belinda Coghlan, Evelyn Davies-Jones.

The following are also members of the PCC, continuing from the previous year:
Anna Burton, Jan Allotey (General Synod), Gill Appleton (Deanery Synod), Ernie Charlton (Deanery Synod), Bryan Coghlan (Diocesan Synod), Emma Kennedy, Steve Lockett (Deanery Synod), Helen Shorrock, Pat Stalker (Deanery Synod), Beth Roberts, Robert Sivocha, Janet Thompson, Jan Virr, Mary Harris (Pastoral Worker), Dot Woods (Assistant Priest), Mark Hart (Rector).

The Stained Glass of St. Mary's, Nantwich

A new edition is now on sale, just £3, with improved photographs and layout.

Stewards Needed

Fridays 9.30-11am, and reserve stewards ready to help out occasionally to fill gaps that rise. We need someone to greet visitors and chat to them about the many interesting features in the church. Training will be provided. Please ring the Parish Office on 01270 625268.

Parking

Please note that unfortunately from **26th May** there will be charges for parking on Sundays and in the evenings up to 10pm at the car parks near church. Snow Hill car park will still be free after 3pm and will also be free on Sundays. Morrisons car park allows up to 1.5 hours for customers.

St. Mary's Summer Raffle

The summer raffle is back! After a few years break, last year we restarted the raffle but on a smaller scale than previously. The raffle was food-based, and we received some very generous donations of gift vouchers and food hampers from local businesses as prizes.

This year though we would like to take it back to its former glory. But, in order to do that, we need some prizes. In the past, members and friends of the church have also been very generous with gifting some prizes. We are now asking for your help again. Whether it be a box of chocolates, an item we can put in a hamper or any other item it would be very much appreciated. Previously, a couple of members who are fortunate enough to own their own holiday accommodation have donated a week off peak to a lucky winner. Are you able to help at all? Large or small, all donations would be gratefully received.

We hope to have tickets available for sale in advance of our Summer Fair (19th July) and continuing until the end of August when the winning tickets will be drawn.

Whether it is providing a prize, selling tickets to friends and family, or just buying a ticket yourselves, we just ask for your support, to help us raise much-needed funds for our church. All enquiries and offers to the Parish Office.



Pilgrims attend 9.30 Service

Churches Together in Nantwich (CTiN) has instigated a sequence of visits for congregation members of CTiN churches to attend services at the other churches. On Sunday, 26th May, St. Mary's was pleased to welcome the "pilgrims", as they call themselves, from St. Mary's, Acton, St. Anne's, Market Street and Nantwich Methodist Church. Some pilgrims were able to stay for coffee after the 9.30 service, but others were hurrying off to attend a Rogation service at Woodhey Chapel, Faddiley. They all said that they had found the 9.30 service enjoyable.

St. Mary's Ceilidh

Well, what an enjoyable evening that was! On Saturday, 10th May, the latest event organised by the Church Social Committee, was a Ceilidh held at Acton Parish Hall.

Over 40 people of all ages came together for some dancing led by Geoff & Judith Pearson.







There was a break halfway through for a Pie & Peas Supper followed by dessert and then back for some more dancing expertly called by Geoff.









The whole event was certainly well received by all who attended.

Thank you to Wendy Beastall, Caryl Boxhall, Andrea Howell-Jones, and Geoff & Judith Pearson (the Social Committee) for organising a successful St. Mary's Ceilidh.

Watch out for details of future social events not to be missed.

Breakfast with a Barrister



Barrister Nick Howell-Jones, who works in the family courts, led us through a fascinating description of some of the traditions of the Bar and the sometimes life-changing narrative of cases (all of which will have been reported and are in the public domain).

Traditions of the Bar

The Bar is the collective body of barristers (specialist legal practitioners primarily engaged in advocacy and litigation). Nick tells us that barristers never shake hands. Why is this? Because you'd shake hands to indicate you had put your sword away and there's a general understanding that barristers don't need swords! Actually, the present-day reason is so that there is not a perception that barristers are pally with each other when representing different parties on the same case. Barristers have worn wigs since the 1700s. Nick wore his when first called to the Bar for commercial cases, but no longer does in the family court. He says *"our children have worn mine more than me!"*

"Expect the unexpected"

This was what Nick's pupil master told him early in his career. There's no point having a plan as anything can happen. One time Nick was hit by a man who was alleged to have been violent towards a woman. The man was then found in contempt of court. On another case a mother who was allegedly a drug user had missed all the recent drugs tests. In cross-examination the barrister said, *"Your drugs tests are outstandin*g". She said, *"Thank you"!*

The chips are high

Nick talked about cases where he has represented parents who have low cognitive levels but love their children deeply. In reaching care decisions for these cases, he would try to find a package of support that would make a difference and enable the child/children to remain with their parents.

Similarly in cases where bruising on a baby is evident, the outcome could be life-changing if a judge finds that the mother has inflicted the bruises because if there is no other family to care for the baby, adoption would be the outcome. In such a case Nick will be working with a group of experts (paediatrician, paediatric radiologist, obstetrician) to establish if the injuries have an organic and therefore explained reason (eg. a birth defect from delivery) or if the injuries have been inflicted.

A first

Nick did the very first FGM (female genital mutilation) case on the day the law was introduced. It involved a protection order for a girl whose family was going to send her to Somalia.

Life and death

Some cases in which Nick is involved truly are life or death decisions. He told us about a young boy who had been shaken as a baby resulting in catastrophic injury. Medical advice was that life-sustaining treatment should be withdrawn. The boy was represented by Nick with a team including solicitor, advocate, guardian and a new medical team who all scrutinised the evidence. Having met the boy, Nick said that this case touched everyone who was involved.

A court of law not a moral court

Nick gets used to being asked how he can justify representing people who may have injured a child or other offences. He explained that he could never represent anyone who admitted guilt to him. But that he is representing a client based on what is set out in law, not any kind of moral code.

June Breakfast - Saturday, 21st June

The speaker will be Becky Hurst, the Community Development Worker with Crewe Parishes. Becky will share some of the joys, challenges and hopes for the work across the churches and Crewe community. As usual the breakfast starts promptly at 8.30am at the Tea Lounge in the Nantwich Football Club stadium. The sign-up sheet is in Church, or book via the office before midday on **Wednesday, 18th June**.

Encounter Supper with Peter Reid



At Encounter Supper in May, 25 people enjoyed a delicious meal, following grace from Angie Bartlett.

The speaker was Peter Reid, a local artist whose work was recently exhibited in St. Mary's. His talk was entitled "What God has done for me".

Peter grew up in Pinner with his 3 siblings and whilst his parents were not church goers they did send him to Sunday school. After secondary school he travelled around Europe and an encounter with some Christian servicemen made a lasting impression.

Aged 18, Peter went to Edinburgh University to study medicine. In his first year, the book "In Search of God" by David Watson led him to faith and he prayed for a Bible, to meet other Christians and attend Bible study; all of these happened shortly afterwards. He joined the Navigators, a Christian organisation through which he met his wife Julie.

After graduating, Peter's first hospital jobs were in Scotland but then he felt called to Cardiff and although he initially had no job there he trusted in God. Pursuing his career in medicine involved passing the clinical exams of the Royal College of Physicians. Peter was inspired by Isaiah 43 and the verse from Daniel: "the people who know their God will stand firm and take action".

In 1993 Peter was appointed consultant physician and cardiologist at the Countess of Chester Hospital. They moved to Guilden Sutton, joining the village church where Mark later became Rector and their 4 children attended the local school. Despite a demanding job, Peter ran youth groups and was church warden. He always sensed being in God's care even when his adult son Jonathan died unexpectedly.

After retiring from medicine Peter took up art, studying for an oil painting diploma with acclaimed artist Martin Kinnear. Reflecting on all that God has done in his life Peter highlighted forgiveness and finished his talk with the words from Psalm 130: "If you Lord kept a record of sins, Lord who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you that you may be revered".

All Together Now

At 9.30am All Age Worship, the children and youth used to stay in church once a month on the week of communion. Given how much communion liturgy there is, it was usually quite tricky to adjust the service to be more interactive and inviting for the children in a tight timescale. That's why, after a lot of discussion, it was decided we'd try it on a different Sunday, the second of the month. The children still return for communion on the first Sunday so they can join their families for it, but they have the freedom to go to their own groups and learn in different ways too.

We hope that there is something for everyone in our All Together Worship services, a different way of approaching faith, and maybe seeing faith and connecting with God through the eyes of our children and young people. The services usually take a similar shape each time: Welcome, the Peace and an opening prayer. We have a starter activity related to the theme, the Bible reading and a short talk/thought with questions to think about. Our prayer time usually takes the format of four 4 or five interactive stations around the church giving an opportunity to respond and reflect on the topic and chat to others about what we're learning. This time is brought to a close with the Lord's Prayer, notices and we can't forget about sharing birthdays or celebrations for the month! There is of course lots of sung worship throughout the service too, some with actions to get involved with.

After some of the services, we've had activities and craft upstairs in the Parish Hall, a chance to keep learning about the Bible theme or story of the month and make something to take home - followed by refreshments of some kind. We did this in December after the All Age Nativity, had a Pancake Party in March, and hot cross buns on Palm Sunday!



"Each one heard their own language being spoken." Acts 2: 6

Our next All Together Worship service is **Sunday, 8th June**, Pentecost! This will be followed by crafts and refreshments, all are welcome!

If you have any feedback or ideas do let us know!

Don't miss our Pentecost All Together Worship, when we hope to hear all the languages spoken by our congregation.

Forthcoming Events

Seniors' Lounge

The next Seniors' Lounge will be on **Sunday, 8th June**, 3pm in the Parish Hall - friendly company and a chat over a cup of tea/coffee & cake.

June Breakfast

The next St. Mary's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, 21st June**. Further details on p. 11.

Church Walk

There is a Church Walk on **Sunday, 8th June** at 1.45pm. This will be from St. Mary's, Nantwich to Acton Church via the canal and back. The return trip is approximately 3 miles and we'll visit Tea at the Tower at Acton for drinks and cakes. If you'd like to come please book with Carole Tilt or the Parish Office by **5th June**.

Saturday, 19th July …

This will be a busy day for some but easy to drop into all of the events:

8.30am: an extra summer-time **St. Mary's breakfast** slotted in so we can hear about Grace Lewis's recent trip to Africa. As usual, at the Tea Lounge at the Nantwich Football Club Stadium.

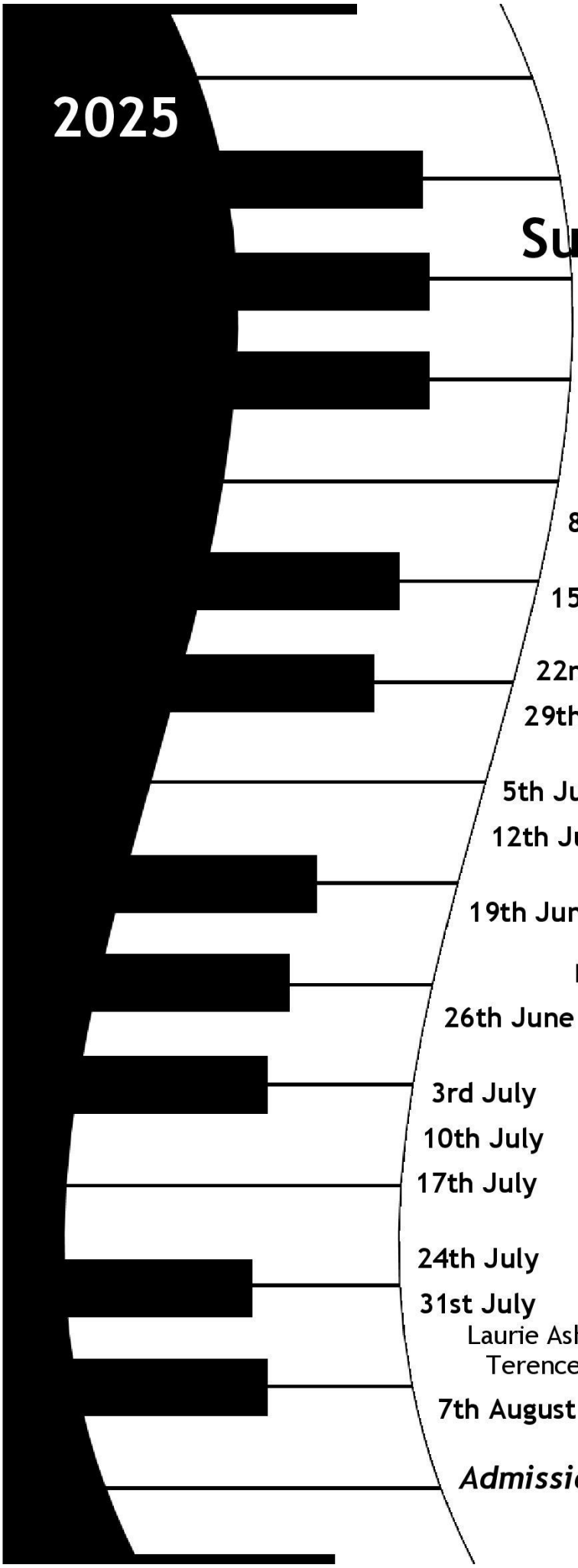
10.00am: St. Mary's Summer Fair in and around the Church and Parish Hall.

12.30pm: Nantwich Pride Day Service in Church.

3.30pm: Proud Marys singing in Church.



See also **"Special Services & Events Calendar"** on p. 32.



ST MARYS
NANTWICH

Summer Lunchtime Concerts 2025

Thursdays 12.30-1.15pm

8th May	James Warburton (Violin) Angharad Huw (Harp)
15th May	John Gough & Tom Kimmance (Piano duo)
22nd May	Students from Chetham's
29th May	Clio Duo: Inis Oirr Asano (Viola) Alexia Eleftheriadou (Piano)
5th June	Nantwich Chamber Ensemble
12th June	Lauren Scott (Harp) Conrad Marshall (Flute)
19th June	Trio Diva: Imogen Garner (Mezzo soprano) Ben Holland (Violin) & John Gough (Piano)
26th June	Sophie Rosa (Violin) Ian Buckle (Piano)
3rd July	Richard Lea (Organ)
10th July	Rufus Edwards (Piano)
17th July	Forum Piano Trio: Alison Loram (Violin) Min Song (Cello) & Yuki Kagajo (Piano)
24th July	Nantwich Singers
31st July	Stage Serenade: Laurie Ashworth (Soprano), Sally Johnson (Soprano) Terence Ayebare (Baritone) & John Gough (Piano)
7th August	Simon Russell (Organ)

Admission Free ***Retiring Collection***

News in Pictures



Congratulations to Casey-Jane and Robert West, married at St. Mary's on Saturday, 3rd May.



Angharad Huw (harp) and James Warburton (violin) launched the Summer Lunchtime Concerts on 8th May with a performance of music by Debussy, Piazolla, Saint-Saëns, Florence Price and an arrangement of "A Minecraft Suite" by James himself. 130 people attended, a record for the first in the series.





Many congratulations to Liz Chisnall who celebrated her 90th birthday in May. Instead of birthday presents Liz kindly asked that people would donate to St. Mary's Restoration Fund. Over £500 has been raised so far.



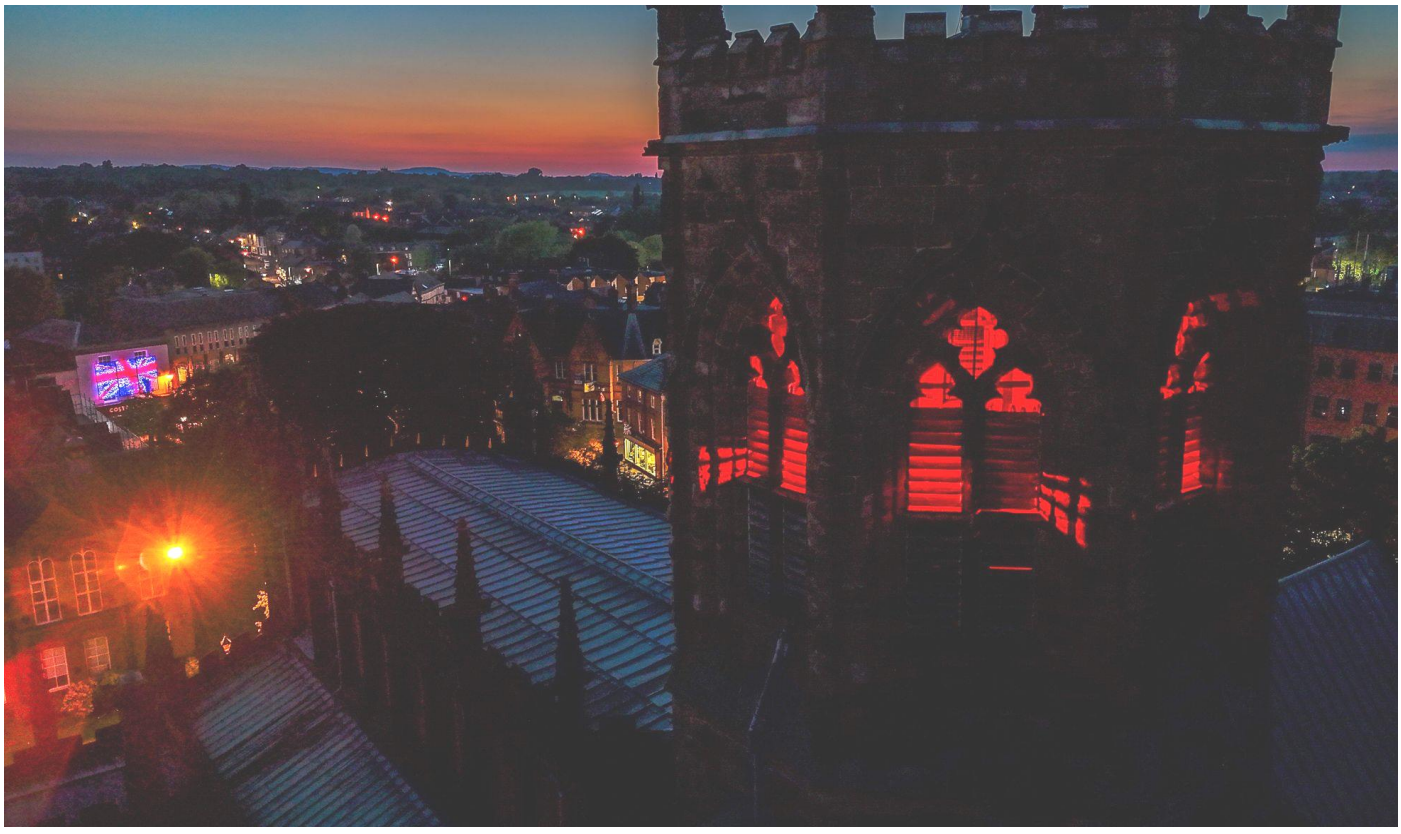
On Thursday, 15th May at the Mayor Making Ceremony in the Civic Hall, Cllr. Stuart Bostock (Mayor of Nantwich 2024-25) presented a cheque to the Rector, proceeds for St. Mary's from the 2024 Tree of Light. Cllr. Mayor Slinn was elected Mayor for the coming year, with her best friend Annette McKeith as her Consort, and Cllr. Kim Jamson was elected Deputy Mayor.

VE Day 80th Anniversary



The Union Jack flying well on the eve of VE Day, ready for the commemorations. Photo: Stefan Zientek.

St. Mary's, like many iconic buildings throughout the country, lit red for VE Day. Photo: Jonathan White.

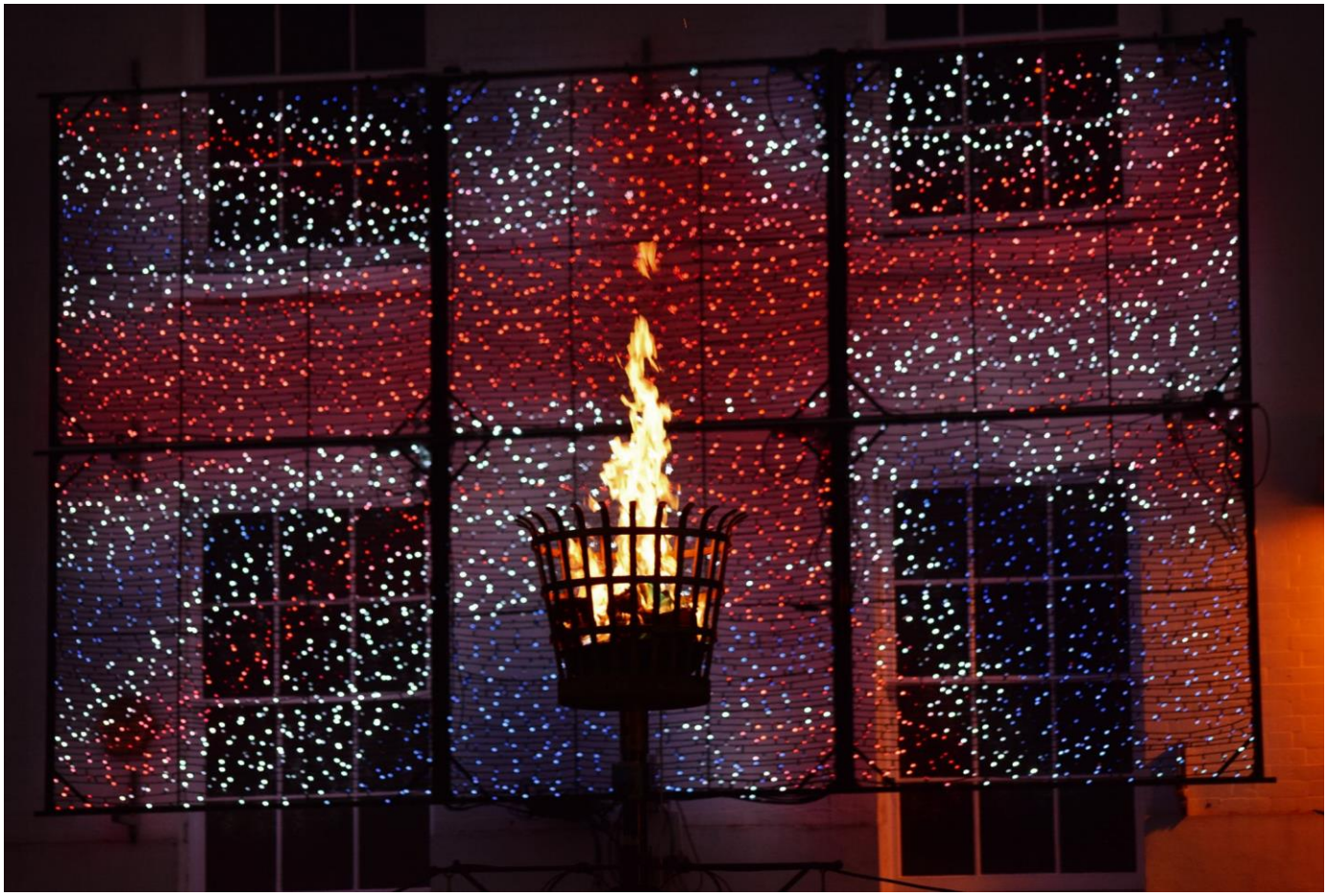




The scouts and cadets line up in preparation for the parade to the Square.

The Rector addresses the audience on the Square, reading the accounts of jubilation and midnight dancing in Nantwich from the Chronicle editions of 12th and 19th May 1945.





The memorial beacon on the Square was lit by Dennis Eyres, age 100, a regular member of our Richmond Village congregation, and long-time member of St. Mary's. Photos: Jonathan White.



L to R (with bell numbers): Mark Hart (1), George Basford (4), Fanny Weiss (2), Stefan Zientek (5), Edward Leetham (3), Diana Boyles (6), after ringing a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles in the early evening of VE Day, to commemorate the 80th anniversary.

Later, at 6.30pm, a band of ten ringers took part in Rounds, Call Changes, and Firing 80 Times, as part of the United Celebration across towers in the UK at that time.



An aerial view of the Wreath Laying Ceremony which took place at 7.30pm on the Square on VE Day. Photo: Jonathan White.

Happy 80th Birthday Christian Aid

"Our groundbreaking work began in 1945, when we were founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. For 80 years, we have provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

We've partnered with communities and organisations across the world to support people of every faith and none. Over these 80 years, we've harnessed something formidable. Something so full of love that it can't be silenced. We call it the unstoppable power of **hope.**

Hope has compelled us to stand up for communities in crisis and support people living in poverty. Right now, we need it more than ever. As tragic events unfold across the world, from Gaza to Ukraine and South Sudan, we need your support to offer **hope** to communities in crisis."

Together we're unstoppable.
(article from the Christian Aid Website)

Churches Together in Nantwich organised this year's Christian Aid collections during the week 11th-17th May. The St. Mary's Church collection raised £473.31 (excluding Gift Aid donations). The Town Collection raised £369.89 and the online collection £255.00. To date the overall total raised by churches, online and in the town is £1,549.95 (£1,701.20 with Gift Aid).

A final figure will be issued in the church notices once all donations are accounted for. Thank you to all those who donated by whatever means. Each gift brings a measure of **hope** for those in crisis and poverty across the world.



CTiN Christian Aid Town Square Collection - Canon David Taylor (St. Mary's, Nantwich/CTiN Chair) with Brenda Evans (Market Street Church).

Sailing On - Reflections on Life's Journey From Shore to Shore



Encounter Explore on 24th May saw the church filled with displays, prayer stations and boats. There is an established link between Christianity and sailing and the word nave comes from the Latin navis, meaning boat.

A yacht took centre stage in the middle of the church, sailing towards the high altar and carrying these words: *We are travellers on life's journey, setting out from land and sailing the sea of life to the safety of the furthest shore. Through turbulent waves and calm waters, may faith sustain us and the spirit guide us. We pray that you will be with us, Lord, as we "sail on" to you.*

In the north transept visitors tried out rowing a boat whist considering the verses from Matthew 8: 23-27 on Jesus calming the storm, and a sailing boat out in the well encouraged people to come into church. Thanks are due to Nick Leftley for the loan of the boats.





A 7ft model based on a Liberty Ship and made by Paul Durrant impressed visitors in St. Nicholas' Chapel.



Children enjoyed sailing paper boats, playing hook a boat and colouring lighthouses.



Many visitors wrote prayers on paper fish and made anchors as a sign of their connection to God. The pews were filled with nautical items such as lifejackets, ropes and sails with each accompanied by a reflection.





Other prayer stations were based on sea life, tides, lighthouses, boats in the Bible and local waterways and a sea themed soundtrack included the shipping forecast.

Over 500 people attended "Sailing On" and it was wonderful to see so many from the local community. *Carole Tilt*

The Threetles (or was it the Ninetles?)



On Wednesday, 14th May, St. Mary's was the venue for a Nantwich Roots Festival gig by The Threetles (see March issue for a longer description). The Threetles is an "increasingly inaccurately-named-numerically-challenged four-and-sometimes-five-man Beatles celebration band", who don't wear wigs or try and emulate any of the "fab four". Having started as three, it now comprises five musicians and was accompanied that evening by a string quartet including some of the North's finest string players.

The Church was packed and there was some seated dancing and twisting going on in the front pews. The Threetles led us through a variety of Beatles tracks – not just the all-time favourites, but also B-side songs. Also, Mary Hopkin's "Those Were the Days" a Paul McCartney produced song which reached the UK No. 1 spot in 1968, was sung by the wife of one of the Threetles. Some songs were delivered just by the musicians and singers, for others the audience was actively encouraged to participate. Evidently, we were a very quiet audience – but everyone was very appreciative.

Annie Coombs



Photos: Chris Driver

Cursillo



I'm fascinated by the Pilgrimage programmes that I keep coming across on screen. They seem to speak of the hope of making a new or deeper connection to something or someone to add richness to the Pilgrims' lives. I'm never sure whether they are satisfied by the outcomes of their journeys but they always seem relieved to have made it to their goal. These programmes also cause me to reflect upon where I'm walking with God and whether I am deepening my relationship.

A less energetic, though very engaging way of exploring your relationship with God is by coming on a Cursillo Weekend. A good many members of St. Mary's have used the Weekend experience as an opportunity to grow in faith, experience the love and grace of God, the joy of Christian fellowship and then to flourish in our own Christian communities.

Who is Cursillo for?

Well, it is for people who have been baptised, both laity and clergy, but remain:

- curious
- discovering
- searching
- wanting to grow
- wanting to be glad and confident in their faith.

It is an unusual retreat in that after this Cursillo short course you have the opportunity to continue to meet in a small group to review your own Christian Life in an encouraging, supportive environment. Perhaps "try one out" before you go so you can consider whether you would like to join in on a regular basis after the Weekend. It's called the Fourth Day ... a neat play on the words Going Forth ... into the rest of your life.

The Weekend centres on fifteen themed talks. A typical Cursillo day begins and ends with worship and will include meditations, talks, group discussions, fun and laughter as well as time for private prayer. It is funded by "paying forward". You are only asked for a £20 non-returnable deposit when booking.

If you'd like to know more, speak to some of those you know who've been on a Cursillo Weekend such as Mary Harris or Nick or Sue Hutt. You can contact local organiser Sue Hutt via the Parish Office.

Date of next Weekend: 24th-26th October 2025. For more details see *www.chestercursillo.org.uk* and remember although it's hosted in a Retreat House, it's more of a "Going Forward", a pilgrimage. Are you coming, Pilgrim?

Sue Hutt

Life in New Testament Times - Part One

Language and Culture. Jesus lived in Galilee where everyone spoke and understood Greek. It was part of the Roman Empire. The Romans had taken over from the Greeks from the third century BC. Formal papers were still written in Latin and there were also local accents and languages spoken in different regions. In Galilee the extra language was Aramaic. This was the language understood across the Silk Road and important for trade, probably as far east as China.

This explains how the crowds at Pentecost from all over the former Greek Empire could understand each other. When we say "Amen" we are speaking Aramaic. It means "So be it or let it be so". Alexander the Great had taken the Greek culture east as far as the Indus Valley, now Pakistan. There are still some remote Greek speaking people in mountain villages there today.

Cities were built around the Mediterranean from which the culture could be spread. St. Paul spent much time in several cities where he lived, preached and built up Christian communities. Examples are Corinth, now in modern Greece, where he spent 18 months and later wrote back in his letters to the Corinthians, and Ephesus, in today's Turkey, where he lived for 2-3 years. He later wrote his letter to the Ephesians, which is also in the New Testament.

Travel was relatively easy as the Romans had built thousands of miles of paved roads. Trade and travel by sea were continuous and widespread all around the Mediterranean. There were camel caravans trading across the deserts, mountains and valleys of the Middle East. There were goods being brought in from China, across Asia.

Politics and Religion. The politics were complex with the Romans in charge and the family of Herods ruling as kings, courtesy of the Romans. The Jews had their own rules and traditions and they did not want to conform to the Roman laws. They prayed for a Messiah to come and rescue them as promised in the Hebrew scriptures. Some believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah who would lead an army and free them from the Romans. Others believed that Jesus was the Messiah come to save them from their sins peacefully. Those in power thought he was a trouble-maker who threatened their positions of power and they were prepared to do anything to remove the perceived threat. This explains the atmosphere in Jerusalem as Jesus was welcomed, then accused and crucified. Those in authority were even more shocked when Jesus' apostles and disciples started claiming that he had risen from death and was alive. The number of believers grew and the Jewish leaders in particular felt fearful and became even more aggressive towards the believers of "The Way" as his followers were known. They were later first called Christians, followers of Christ, in the city of Antioch.

To be continued next month. *Dot Roxby*

From the Registers: April 2025

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

6th	Arthur Pattinson	27th	Riley Woods
6th	Amelia Savas	27th	Annie Donlan
		27th	Lochie Donlan

Holy Matrimony

Bless these thy servants

26th	James Fay & Megan Roberts

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

7th	Douglas Butterill (86)
15th	Christine Bowen (75)
17th	Sheila Cliffe (87)
29th	Cynthia Moss (91)

Readings for June

1st June *(7th Sunday of Easter/Sunday after Ascension)*	Acts 16: 16-34 John 17: 20-26
8th June *(Pentecost/Whit Sunday)*	Acts 2: 1-21 John 14: 8-17
15th June *(Trinity Sunday)*	Romans 5: 1-5 John 16: 12-15
22nd June *(1st Sunday after Trinity)*	Galatians 3: 23-29 Luke 8: 26-39
29th June *(St. Peter & St. Paul)*	Acts 12: 1-11 Matthew 16: 13-19

Weekly Services & Groups

The church is open for all our usual regular services, and open to visitors Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-4pm. The 9.30am and 10.45am Sunday services continue to be live-streamed on YouTube most weeks.

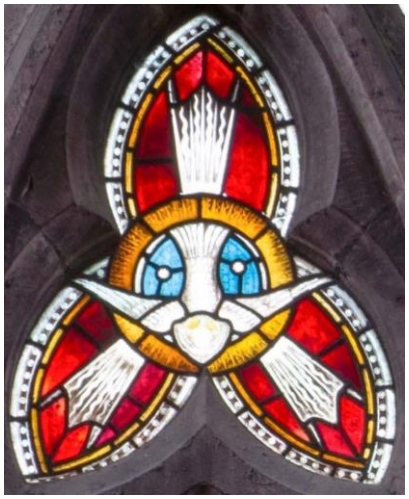
Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	All Age Worship (Communion 1st Sunday)
	10.45am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong
	7.00pm	Encounter (1st & 3rd Sundays)
Tuesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Mums & Toddlers in the Parish Hall
	3.45pm	SING!@St.Mary's in the Parish Hall
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Holy Communion
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Little Fish Toddler Group in Church
	7.00pm	Bellringing practice in the Tower
Friday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	10am-1pm	Place of Welcome in the Parish Hall
	7.00pm	Choir Practice in Church
	6.30pm	Junior FNL
	7.30pm	FNL
Saturday	8.30am	Morning Prayer

Where is it?



Last month's photo showed four consecration crosses which may be seen by looking behind the Jacobean pulpit in the nave from the north side. See Charles Fairey's guidebook to the masons' marks for his thoughts on what they may mean.

This month we celebrate both Whit Sunday and Trinity Sunday. Where can you find this trefoil depicting a dove surrounded by a ring of fire?



Care Home Open Week 2025 You're Invited!



We're opening our doors and inviting the community to join us for Care Home Open Week 2025– a special celebration running from **Monday 16** to **Sunday 22June.**

Come along to see what life in our vibrant community care village is really like!

Meet our wonderful residents and dedicated team, enjoy a tour of our facilities, and take part in fun activities and events planned throughout the week.

Whether you're exploring care options, want to find out more about our community, or just looking for a friendly place to connect –we'd love to welcome you.

Let's celebrate togetherness, care, and community.

Join us throughout Monday 16 June to Sunday 22 June 2025
10am - 4pm

There will be opportunities throughout the day to meet the team, access free advice and support, and enjoy free coffee and cake in The Bistro.



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Join Us During Care Home Open Week - call to find out more and book a visit:
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	Rev. Tony Long	561113
	Rev. David Marsh	610079
	Rev. Gordon G Roxby	619898
	Rev. Brian Statham	07724 133215
	Rev. Canon David Taylor	618936
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	pccsecretary@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
PCC Treasurer:	Steve Lockett	628203
Parish Office:	Gail Johnson & Miriam Harvey	
(Open 9am-12noon Mon-Fri	Church Walk, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5RG	
and until 3.30pm Wed)	office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	625268

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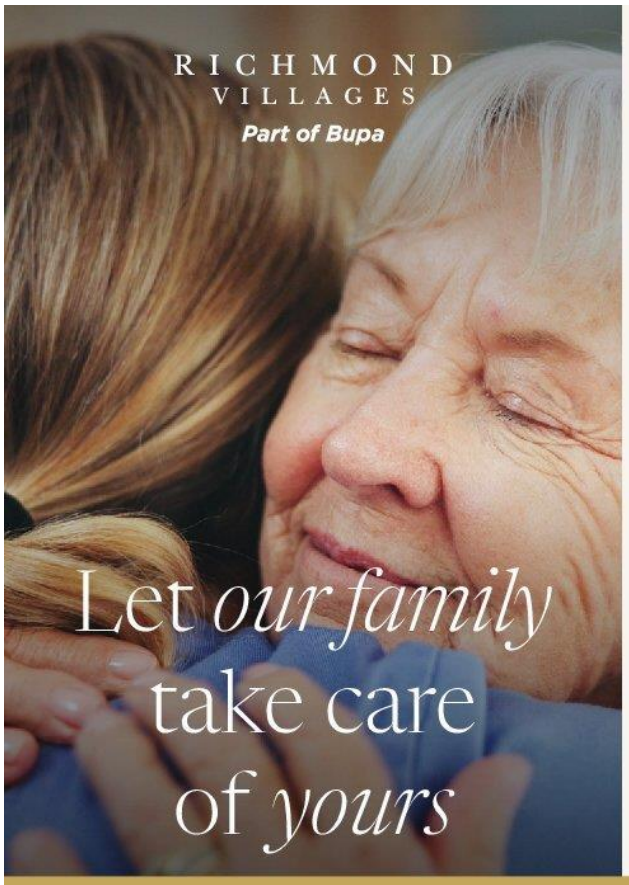
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Special Services & Events Calendar June-October 2025

June	5th	Lunchtime Concert in Church, 12.30pm and every Thursday until 7th August
	11th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	21st	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
	26th	Day Trip to Trentham Gardens
	28th	Nantwich Choral Society Concert in Church, 7.30pm
July	6th	Encounter Explore in Church/Hall, 7.15pm
	9th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	19th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Summer Fair in Parish Hall/Church grounds, 10am-2pm
		Nantwich Pride Day Service in Church, 12.30pm
		Proud Marys singing in Church, 3.30pm
	30th	Nantwich Show at Reaseheath College
August	15th	VJ Day Service in Church, 7.45pm
	17th	Encounter Supper in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	29th	Refreshments in the Hall, 2-4pm – Food Festival
	30th	Food Festival Refreshments, 10am-2pm, Hall/Grounds
	31st	Evensong with St. Christopher Chorale, 6pm
September	13th	Concordia Concert in Church, 3.30pm
	17th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	20th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
October	12th	Harvest Festival
	15th	Words & Music Concert
	18th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Candlelight Concert in Church, 7.30pm
	22nd	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	25th	Encounter Explore Day in Church, 11am-4pm